



## EVERTHRIVE ILLINOIS

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EverThrive Illinois works to improve the health of women, children, and families over the lifespan through community engagement, partnerships, policy analysis, education, and advocacy. Since our founding, EverThrive has been an ardent supporter of Medicaid and has fought to expand and improve the program in Illinois at many junctures in our 25 year history. It is in this vein that we respectfully submit the following recommendations concerning the Path to Transformation Draft Proposal for an 1115 Waiver for Illinois Medicaid.

1. The state of Illinois is in various stages of preparation and implementation for large scale health care delivery transformation for low income and vulnerable Illinois residents. However, there are concerns that, in such a major proposal, insufficient attention is being paid to the health and health care delivery system needs of women, children, and families who are not medically high-risk or who do not have complex medical and behavioral needs. The waiver does not address the provision of medical care homes for all children and families on Medicaid, insuring continuity of care between prenatal care, delivery and then primary care, and ensuring continuity of care between primary care and specialty care for all children including those with special health care needs. **While it is understood that there is a significant role that the state plan and associated amendments may have, given the broadness of the waiver and the minimal attention given to the needs of women, children, and families who are not high risk -- EverThrive Illinois recommends the development of a section and a series of recommendations focused on maternal and child health.**
2. The lack of access to oral health care for Medicaid-eligible children and adults has persisted for years in Illinois. While these services are covered under the current Medicaid state plan and no waiver is needed to provide for them, the planning documents and current Medicaid managed care plans (e.g.,

the Accountable Care Entities) do not consider oral health care providers as required members. Oral health care providers should be included in integrated delivery systems.

3. Pathway 3 in the proposal correctly highlights the healthcare delivery systems' pressing need for additional qualified providers. In addition to the need for more physicians, advanced practice nurses, and community health workers, the waiver should address the need for community health and public health nurses, social workers, health educators and home visitors, as these providers are essential for addressing population health and social determinants of health effectively. Additionally, the proposal indicates that Illinois will establish a community health worker curriculum and competency testing standards, using the community colleges. EverThrive recommends that maternal and child health experts are involved in the development of this curriculum so community health workers and other qualified providers are adequately prepared to address the specific health needs related to pregnancy and reproductive health.
4. Regarding Pathway 1, Illinois has led the nation in the development of regionalized systems of hospital-based perinatal care services. Care should be taken, in the development of integrated delivery systems, that these networks, authorized by Illinois' Developmental Disability Prevention Act (410 ILCS 250), not be disrupted. The focus of these networks should be expanded to include and support the provision of high-quality prenatal care and hospitals should be compensated for the cost of administering this system. State support for this system, which plays a critical role in the prevention of preterm birth, low birth weight, infant mortality and developmental disability, has diminished over the years.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Waligora, Manager, Health Reform Initiatives at [kwaligora@everthriveil.org](mailto:kwaligora@everthriveil.org) or 312-491-8161 x29.